

Old Southern Hotel
Mobile, Alabama

Mobile Co.

HABS No. ^{ALA}~~16~~-11

HABS
ALA,
49-MOBI,
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS

District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

OLD SOUTHERN HOTEL
S. E. Corner Conti and Water Streets,
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

HABS
ALA,
49-MOBI,
12-

Ownership:

Present Owner: J. W. Olensky - J. W. Weber.
From 1923 to 1935.

Previous Owners: Lewis Judson.
From 1828 to 1834.
Phillip McLoskey.
From 1834 to 1840
Planters & Merchants Bank.
From 1840 to 1849.
John Henry.
From 1849 to 1859.
Dominick O. Grady.
From 1859 to 1871.
Carrie L. Grady.
From 1871 to 1893.
F. L. Wagar & H. R. Wagar.
From 1893 to 1902.
H. R. Wagar.
From 1902 to 1907.
Martin Lindsey.
From 1907 to 1923.
J.W. Olensky & J. W. Weber.
From 1923 to 1935.

Date of Erection: 1828. 1837

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Unknown.

Present Condition: State of disintegration.

Number of Stories: Three.

Materials of Construction: Brick; stuccoed and stone-jointed;
low pitched roofs, remodelled. Ornamental cast iron porch rails,
standards, and ect. Windows have stone sills.

Other Existing Records:

See: The Birmingham, News, for September 2, 1934.

"CHARM OF MOBILE HOLDS VISITORS."
By Varian Feare, (Mrs. E. Walter Burkhardt)

ALA

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Additional Data: Used as a hotel until recent years, and a leading one in its early days, this building apparently first included only the corner of Conti and Water Streets, with frontage on the latter street and this part was at one time known as "Gulf City Hotel." Later this was greatly extended along Water Street.

There is good reason to believe that the porches were added many years after the erection of the original building, at least, for window sills were remodelled to meet this condition, and it is said that the ornamental iron work of porches was added after 1865. The interior is plain and has not been improved in remodelling. An interesting old stairway remains. Windows opening on porches generally extend to the floor and are of an unusual jib-type.

An hilarious New Years celebration of 1831; led by Michael Krafft, and afterwards, called "The Cowbellion de Rakin Society," originated in this hotel and soon afterwards led to the formation of the "Mystic Societies" which still exist and whose colorful parades and balls are the features of the Carnival of Mardi Gras in Mobile.

Source of Material:

Mr. John Glennon
205 St. Francis Street
Mobile, Alabama.
Title Insurance Company
Mobile, Alabama.
Mr. Gustave Chaudron Jr.,
258 Stoking Street
Mobile, Alabama.

Compiled by:

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Approved by:

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Auburn, Alabama.

Date:

7-21-1936.

Rev. Dec. 4 '36 H.C.W.

Addendum to
Old Southern Hotel
Mobile
Mobile County
Alabama

HABS No. ALA-11

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49-MOBI,
12-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20001

ADDENDUM TO
OLD SOUTHERN HOTEL
HABS No. AL~~X~~-11
(PAGE 3)

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
OLD SOUTHERN HOTEL

HABS
ALA
49-MoBI,
12-

See also HABS AL-8 for additional drawings.